

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:WDROGERS

APPROVED BY: ARA:WDROGERS

S/S-O: RKUCHEL

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O 162220Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253525

EXDIS

FOL REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

SENT SECSTATE FM SANTIAGO NOV 15

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-ON FROM THE QUITO MFM

REF: STATE 252031

FOR DEP SEC INGERSOLL AND ASST SEC ROGERS

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN OAS REP IS SUGGESTING TO HIS GOVT ADOPTION OF
SPEICIAL PROTOCOL TO PERMIT TERMINATION OF ANTI-CHUBAN
SANCTIONS BY SIMPLE MAJORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHILEAN OAS REP AMB MANUEL TRUCCO DISCCUSED WITH
ME NOV 15 SITUATION WHICH EXISTS AS RESULT OF OUTCOME
OF QUITO CONFERNCE, REFERRING TO MAY OF THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED
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IN FIRST PORTION OF REFTEL. TRUCCO WAS OF COURSE HAPPY

THAT CHILE HAD AVOIDED ISOLATION, AND EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONABLE FOR THE USG POSITION AT QUITO, BUT WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED REGARDING FUTURE OF THE RIO TREATY AND THE OAS SYSTEM -- WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS A FAR MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION THAN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN RE CUBA. ON THE LATTER, HE FELT THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED UNDER THE RIO TREATY HAD IN THEMSELVES CEASED TO HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL MEANING EXCEPT AS REGARDS THE US. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CREATE A LEGAL BASIS FOR GIVING THE US FREEDOM OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO CUBAN SANCTIONS.

3. UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND, HOWEVER, WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT IF THE RIO TREATY AND THE OAS SYSTEM WERE TO COLLAPSE, THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE WOULD BE FORCED TO RELY COMPLETELY ON BILATERAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR SECURITY. IN CHILE'S AREA RESULT WOULD PROBABLY BE TO STIMULATE A SOUTHERN CONE ALLIANCE IN WHICH, IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUED, ARGENTINA AS WELL AS BRASIL MIGHT BE JOINED. TRUCCO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS MADE ELSEWHERE IN THE HEMISPHERE WOULD PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING HEMISPHERE SECURITY STRUCTURE.

4. IN TRUCCO'S OPINION, ONE SOURCE OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY RE CUBA LIES IN WHAT HE CONSIDERS MISUSE OF THE RIO TREATY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS. IN HIS VIEW TREATY WAS DESIGNED TO MEET CONTINGENCY OF DIRECT ARMED ATTACK ("A PERAL HARBOR CASE") AND NOT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY SUCH AS THAT WHICH IN 1964 PROVOKED ANTI-CUBAN SANCTIONS. CHILE HAD SAID AS MUCH AT THE TIME. BUT THE DAMAGE HAD NOW BEEN DONE, AND QUESTION WHICH REMAINED WAS HOW BEST TO SAVE THE TREATY AND THE SYSTEM. SINCE CASTRO HAD MADE NOT A SINGLE GESTURE LOOKING TOWARD CONTINENTAL DETENTE OR RAPPROCHMENT, HE WAS NOT PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CUBAN ASPECT.

5. TRUCCO SAID HE WAS PUTTING TO HIS MINISTER A SUGGESTION THAT AT NEXT MEETING OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION OF THE SYSTEM, NEXT WEEK, A PROPOSAL SHOULD BE MADE FOR TERMINATING SANCTIONS MEASURES ADOPTED

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UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF RIO TREATY, BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE RATHER THAN TWO-THIRDS. HE HOPED THIS COULD BE DONE THROUGH A SPECIAL PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD GAIN PROMPT RATIFICATION, AND THAT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THE SIMPLE MAJORITY WHICH HAD BEEN FORGED AT QUITO COULD PROCEED TO END THE ANTI-CUBAN SANCTIONS.

6. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I RAISED QUESTION WHETHER

GOC WOULD WISH TO BE IN FOREFRONT IN PROPOSING A PROCEDURAL STEP WHICH, WHILE APPARENTLY USEFUL IN TERMS OF PRESERVING RIO TREATY STRUCTURE AND OAS, WOULD SO OBVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTE TO DISMANTLING WHAT WAS LEFT OF HEMISPHERE'S ANTI-CUBAN POSTURE. TRUCCO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE COULD PERSUADE FIDEL AND JUNA TO AGREE.

7.COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I AM NOT SUFFICIENTLY KNOWLEDGEABLE REGARDING OAS TO EVALUATE PROSPECTS FOR TRUCCO'S PLAN, IT WOULD IF FEASIBLE APPEAR TO OBVIATE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENVISAGED IN PARA 2 REFTEL. AS INDICATED ABOVE, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE GOC TAKING THE LEAD IN THIS MATTER. BUT IF IT IS USEFUL IN ITS OWN TERMS, THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF OTHER STATES WILLING TO STEP INTO THE FOREFRONT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE253525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA:WDROGERS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0167
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741136/aaaabenl.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 252031
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOLLOW-ON FROM THE QUITO MFM
TAGS: OCON, OAS
To: BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005